

To the honorable members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

As a resident of Bridgeport who cannot **safely** bike to work although it's fairly close, and as an environmentalist and member of *Bike Walk Connecticut* and *Connecticut Fund for the Environment* activist, I most strongly support the Governor's proposals to develop and fund a first-rate active transportation network of bike lanes, greenways, multi-use paths and pedestrian infrastructure in Connecticut.

Unfortunately, Connecticut currently is ranked among the bottom 10 bike-friendly states by the League of American Bicyclists, and Bridgeport is near the bottom of the intra-state ranking. Research has shown that building larger highways will actually make traffic congestion worse over time! Car-friendly infrastructure will only deepen our climate crisis and the divide between the rich and the poor, as well as keep people isolated from their neighbors, and neighborhoods and cities. Citizens who bike and walk to work, to go shopping, to eat out or to meet friends are less isolated than car drivers from other people and from their towns and cities, care more about the cleanliness and beauty of their towns, are more fit, save the state much money due to their fitness and virtually no pollution produced, and are more involved in civic life. Thus, the benefits of reducing car use and increasing walking and bicycling are truly immense.

Please take bold steps to make our state green and human-friendly on par with the Netherlands, Denmark and Washington State. You will stem the loss of young people and attract young, bright minds who will seek to live in our state. Older cities suffering from urban decay such as Bridgeport will actually experience a renewal, due to the influx of new investments and new residents. So please support HB 6840, thought it be only a first great step, because...

- Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy.
- Bike lanes, sidewalks and greenways cost a fraction of what it costs to build and maintain roads. People want to bike and walk more, but many don't feel safe without bike lanes, greenways and sidewalks. Build them and people will use them! I urge you to see what [Copenhagen](#) has done (if you have Netflix, look up the great documentary "[Urbanized](#)").
- Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, consider that biking and walking couldn't be greener ways to get around. Active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.

Again, Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that millennials or the creative class (or the increasing numbers of single people and childless couples) have in mind. A well-designed active transportation network will help bring them to Connecticut and keep them here, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bikeable places would boost tourism immeasurably, with benefits spreading throughout our economy!

It's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840.

Thank you for taking my views in consideration.

Sincerely,

Gian Morresi